

PROPOSAL TO CENTRALIZE THE OPERATION  
OF THE NEWARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

A. PROPOSED CENTRALIZATION OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Recently I proposed to Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio, and the Members of the City Council, that the Police Department be Centralized. My recommendation calls for the elimination of our five precinct stations and the incorporation of all police services in one building. I am firmly convinced that the implementation of this proposal will guarantee our City a vastly improved police service.

B. THE NEED FOR CENTRALIZATION

The Newark Police Department, in common with Police Forces in other highly urbanized areas, has been struggling to meet the demand generated by the turbulent unrest and social adjustment which characterizes our present era. This demand strains police budgets and drains manpower reserves, which are already at a low ebb. Our Department finds it increasingly difficult to efficiently and economically provide the required services within the limits of its organizational structure. By making greater use of modern communication facilities, and the mobility provided by motor vehicles, the Department can be better organized to fulfill the demands made upon it. The acquisition of modern facilities will greatly increase the effectiveness of existing manpower.

C. FEATURES OF THE PROPOSAL

1. CITYWIDE PATROL FROM SINGLE FACILITY

All patrol service will be provided from one building rather than the present precinct stations.

2. PLAINCLOTHESMEN AND LICENSE INVESTIGATORS IN ONE COMMAND

All Plainclothesmen and License Investigators will be assigned to the Investigation Division.

3. NUMBER OF MOTOR PATROL DISTRICTS INCREASED

Thirty-two (32) Motor Patrol Districts will be established on all tours, as in contrast to the present schedule, which only provides twenty (20) districts on the 8-4 tour, and twenty-five (25) on the remaining tours.

4. SQUADROLS FOR TRANSPORTATION AND PATROL

Four small auto patrol vehicles, known as "Squadrols" will patrol on all tours. Squadrols will provide expeditious and safe transportation of prisoners and casualties in addition to supplementing the district cars in their patrol function.

5. EMERGENCY TRUCKS IN THE FIELD

Two light Emergency Squad trucks shall patrol on all tours. They shall provide instant response in emergencies, and thereby reduce the number of long runs by heavy Emergency Squad equipment. Heavy equipment will be held in reserve in Emergency Squad Headquarters.

6. TACTICAL UNIT FOR RESERVE AND SELECTIVE PATROL

A Tactical Unit consisting of 144 Patrolmen shall be established in the Patrol Division to furnish nightly (nominally on the 7-3 tour):

- a. 20 two man Motor Patrol Units
- b. 40 Foot Patrolmen

(The existence of such a unit at the time of the recent bus strike would have eliminated the need for overtime work.)

7. DAY FOOT PATROL POSTS

Fifty (50) day Foot Patrol posts shall be filled by Members of the Patrol Division.

8. RESERVE FOR ABSENCES AND LEAVES

Included in the manpower distribution will be an 18% reserve in the Patrol Division to allow for absences caused by sickness, injury and for vacation, and training leaves.

9. ANNUAL IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR ALL MEMBERS

This manpower distribution will also allow for annual one week in-service training annually for each Member, without imposing a burden on regular duty schedules.

D. CENTRALIZED CONCEPT RELATED TO THE NEWARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. AT PRESENT ONLY ONE FUNCTION IS DECENTRALIZED

In our present organization, the only division not centrally controlled is the Patrol Division. The Detective, Investigative, and the Traffic Division have always operated from central quarters. In addition, our Records and Communications systems are centralized.

2. SMOOTH CHANGE OVER TO CENTRALIZATION

Newark, therefore, is readily disposed, functionally, toward a smooth change over to a centralized operation. The major change will be the closing of the dispersed precincts and the attending addition of personnel to patrol to strengthen that function. Thus, Newark can without any risk to its present operation join the large number of U.S. Cities which operate from a single main facility.

3. COMPARISON TABLE SHOWS LARGER CITIES THAN NEWARK ARE CENTRALIZED

A comparison of Newark with Cities of over 250,000 population which do not have precinct stations is made in the following table.

CITY	POPULATION	AREA PER SQUARE MILE
San Antonio	588	160.48
Atlanta	487	128.0
Indianapolis	476	79.8
Phoenix	439	191.6
Louisville	391	62.0
Oakland	368	73.6
Port Worth	356	151.0
Long Beach	344	46.46
Oklahoma City	324	432.0
Rochester	319	35.3
Toledo	318	51.11
Saint Paul	313	55.44
Akron	290	53.9
Tampa	275	85.0
El Paso	277	114.6
Tulsa	262	47.8
Dayton	262	33.6
Wichita	255	51.9
<u>Newark</u>	<u>405</u>	<u>23.6</u>

4. CHICAGO AND BOSTON HAVE REDUCED NUMBER OF PRECINCT STATIONS

Large Cities, which because of their size, must have precinct stations are making better use of modern communications and the automobile. Chicago, a City of 225 square miles, is an example. In recent years the number of precinct stations has been reduced from 38 to 21. Four of these precincts serve areas either larger than, or approximately, the size of our whole city. Boston is another example. A survey by the International Association of Chiefs of Police states, "Because of the extreme mobility of both the citizenry and of the police operation, and because of modern telephone communications, it is entirely possible and practical for the Boston police department to function from one central headquarters." However, because of the lack of existing facilities, it was recommended that the patrol function be operated on a decentralized basis, but that the number of precincts be reduced from 17 to 5.

5. CENTRALIZATION NOT A NEW UNDERTAKING

So you can see, we are not venturing into the unknown. Many other police departments have made more effective use of their manpower by centralizing their operation. We should take advantage of the experience of these departments.

E. NEWARK - IDEALLY SUITED FOR CENTRALIZATION

1. SUITED BECAUSE OF SMALL AREA AND POPULATION DENSITY

With the exception of Jersey City, Newark is the smallest in area of any United States City of over 250,000 people. Newark ranks third in density of population in the nation, with 17,000 persons per square mile of area. This astounding compression of persons is highlighted by the fact that the meadows, port, airport and industrial areas further restrict the actual area of residences by five miles.

2. POPULATION DENSITY RELATED TO INTENSITY OF PATROL

So great a density of population has a direct bearing on the need for intensified street patrol. This need can be alleviated by centralization. For present duplicated tasks and housekeeping assignments will be eliminated, thus increasing the number of men available for street assignments.

3. NEWARK'S POPULATION AND REPORTED CRIME CONCENTRATED IN TWO MILE AREA

It has been determined that 73% of the City's population and 80% of the reported crime are contained within a two mile radius of the intersection of Jones Street and 14th Avenue. Because of its central location and proximity to the proposed New Jersey Highway Department's Midtown Connector this intersection, for planning purposes, has been selected as a reference point. However any location in this central part of the City would not change the statistics. For example, the "Essex Heights" and "Fairmount" urban renewal areas, which are close to the reference point, could at a reasonable cost to the city, provide land for a centralized facility easily, accessible to the majority of the population and situated within the core of the City's reported crime area.

4. TIME IS APPROPRIATE FOR CENTRALIZATION

Obsolescence directs that the Department's entire physical plant be replaced in the near future. Thus a golden opportunity exists for centralization without disrupting operations.

F. APPROVALS OBTAINED

Many people have been consulted and the proposal has been submitted to the tempering fire of their questions.

1. POLICE ADMINISTRATIONS

Thirty-seven (37) of thirty-nine (39) of the highest ranking Superior Officers of the department have endorsed the proposal as feasible.

2. CITY PLANNING AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

The division of City Planning and the Conference Committee on Capital Improvements have declared that the proposal is both feasible and necessary.

3. POLICE ASSOCIATIONS

The Police Benevolent Association and the Superior Officers Association have both endorsed the proposal.

4. CIVIC AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

The proposal has received the approval of Civic and Business Leaders to whom it has been presented.

G. WHAT DOES CENTRALIZATION MEAN TO YOU?

The implementation of this proposal will enable your Department to better police the City. The provision of better police service will benefit all who live, work, shop, visit, or maintain a business in Newark. Thus, through centralizing the operation of the Department Newark can be made a more attractive city in which to live, work, and do business.

H. YOUR SUPPORT IS EARNESTLY SOLICITED

I urge you to be objective and think positively about this proposal. If we are permitted to go ahead, much detailed planning is needed, but more than that, your understanding and support will be required.

*Dominick A. Spina*

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